

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of March 14, 2005**

1. **Street Renovations (Ward 2):** The new season of street renovation started on March 9, 2005 at 900 block of Larch Avenue extending along New Hampshire Service Road. This stage of the work consists of curb and gutter replacement, some side walk repairs and a potential drainage improvement by installation of an underdrain system. The pavement reconstruction is tentatively scheduled for second half of this month, weather permitting. *(City Engineer/Public Works)*
2. **April 7th Public Forum on County Parks and Recreation Facility Needs:** The Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Recreation Advisory Board invite public comments at a joint public forum on park and recreation projects to be included in the FY 07-12 Capital Improvement Program. The forum will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 pm in Park and Planning's auditorium at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. Call 301-650-2890 to sign up to testify. The City of Takoma Park will present testimony on desired improvements in M-NCPPC parks in Takoma Park. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
3. **The Long Branch Task Force (Ward 5):** The Long Branch Task Force is nearing the end of its three year duration. Besides the recommendations it has made in its Year 1 and Year 2 reports, the Task Force's final report will include recommendations on Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Immigration, Poverty and Faith Based Initiatives. The County has been devoting a good deal of attention to Long Branch, including additional clean-up crews, assistance to area businesses, and the sponsoring of an Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel to study the area near Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road. One of the early recommendations was to put County code enforcement records on line, which has now been done. (See next item.) *(Community & Government Liaison)*
4. **Code Enforcement Records:** Montgomery County Code Enforcement records are now on line. The system is still in testing mode, but is already very useful. The link is http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DHCA/apps/pdm_online/pdmfull.asp Simply type in a property address (but leave off Rd, St, Ave, etc) and you can get access to Maryland Real Property Data, permits, County rental licensing, MPDU or rental information. The system is capable of providing a GIS map link of the property. Code violations by apartment unit are listed, including apartments in Takoma Park. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

5. **Carriage House Lights (Ward 1):** The security lights for the Carriage House will be installed beginning Monday, March 21. There will be 4 lights installed, one on each side of the building. They will be activated by motion sensor. The work and the selection of lights has been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. *(Public Works)*

6. **Metropolitan Branch Trail - Silver Spring Section:** The public is invited to attend an informational meeting about the design of the Metropolitan Branch Trail between Montgomery College and the Silver Spring Metro station. The meeting will be held on March 22 at the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue from 6:30 pm - 8:30pm. The Montgomery County Division of Capital Development is hosting this meeting to present information on the proposed project and to obtain comments from the public. For additional information contact Uzair Asadullah, Project Manager, Division of Capital Development, at 240.777.7742 or uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1):** Construction on Laurel Avenue is scheduled to begin on April 4. Associate Planner Ilona Blanchard met this week with business owners on Laurel Avenue to discuss the upcoming project and issues that may affect the businesses. Businesses were notified of the meeting by mail, email, and dropping off notices. Staff are also working with the Farmers Market to develop a relocation plan for the construction period. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 4):** Tenants residing at 116 Lee Avenue (56 units) received a notice on March 10th that the property is for sale. The asking price is \$10,000,000. Previous conversations with the owner however indicate that his interest is to convert the property to condominiums and sell the individual units to the tenants in occupancy or to outside buyers. His estimated prices for the individual condominiums is approximately \$200,000 for a one bedroom unit and \$230,000 for a two bedroom unit. A letter is being sent to all the tenants informing them of their right to purchase. The city will also have Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo (Capacity Building Program) contact the tenants to set up a possible meeting. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. **Tenant Capacity Building Program (Ward 5):** Tenants at 700 Chaney Drive (6 units) contacted the city to see if Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo would meet with them in regard to organizing a tenant's association. It appears as if the owner of this property might be interested in selling and the tenants wanted to organize and be up to speed on their rights should an offer come their way. At least 2 meetings have taken place and the tenants will be registering their association with the city next week. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. **Landlord-Tenant Affairs (City Wide):** In accordance with the code, the Department has calculated the new rent stabilization allowance, which will be 2.1% effective July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006. This is an increase of .2%. The Department is accepting comments on the calculation of the allowance through April 25, 2005. Notices will be sent to all landlords subject to rent stabilization next week and is also being published in the Newsletter. *(Housing and Community Development)*
11. **Apartment Assistance Program Seminar - Lead Paint (City Wide):** Code Enforcement Coordinator Marjorie Ciccone was one of the presenters at the Apartment Assistance Program Seminar offered by the Montgomery Housing Partnership on Tuesday, March 15th. The seminar - Rental Property Owners' Responsibilities Regarding Lead-Based Paint - was well received with many Takoma Park landlords in attendance. *(Housing and Community Development)*
12. **Police in Training:** On March 16, Capt. Coursey, Ofc Butler and Ofc Mueller attended "Cops in Shops" training provided by the MCPD Alcohol Enforcement Unit, on various alcoholic beverage laws and related matters. The goal was to help officers to recognize violations and to assist merchants to conform to the laws. *(Police)*
13. **COP Team (Wards 2, 3 & 6):** On March 17, Ofc Smith (V Sector Specialist) with Ofc Gaskin (V3) conducted a presentation at 7051 Carroll Avenue (Victory Housing) on flim/flam (with video) and identity theft to about 27 residents present. Future sessions may be offered. (Ward 1). Ofc. Butler (X Sector Specialist) has conducted speed enforcement daily from 5-9 a.m. on New Hampshire Avenue. *(Police)*
14. **Crime Report (Ward 1):** On March 15 in the 7200 block of Spruce, four juvenile males were arrested and each charged with two counts of burglary. Officers were responding to a call for a burglary in progress. The Takoma Park juveniles were also charged with a burglary committed on March 11 at the same address. *(Police)*
15. **Reminders (All Wards):** Tomorrow, March 19, a session on emergency preparedness is open to all residents. Offered by the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, the session meets in Council Chambers, 1-4 p.m. *(Police)*
16. **Stations of the Cross (Wards 2 & 6):** The annual "Stations of the Cross" will be made on Friday, March 25, from about 12:30 - 3:00 pm. Intermittent road closures, delays and detours associated with the cross-carry procession will be short in duration. The sponsors, St. Camillus and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Churches, anticipate 2,500 to 3,000 participants. The route of the procession takes advantage of side streets and service roads wherever possible, but some delays on the major thoroughfares are inevitable to include New Hampshire Avenue, University Blvd. as well as Glenside, Wildwood and Anne. *(Police)*

17. **Traffic Enforcement:** Speed enforcement was conducted on Piney Branch, University and New Hampshire. Observation details for traffic enforcement were conducted at Boston and Philadelphia, Maple and Lincoln, on Wildwood and Holton. More than 120 traffic stops resulted in citations. (*Police*)